

AFRICAN UNION

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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

315TH MEETING

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

23 MARCH 2012

PSC/PR/COMM(CCCXV)

COMMUNIQUE

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 315th meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 23 March 2012, adopted the following decision on the situation in the Republic of Mali:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the briefing by the Chairperson of the Commission, as well as the statements by the representatives of the Republic of Mali and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), on the current developments in Mali;
2. **Reaffirms** the relevant AU instruments, in particular the provisions of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, which reject any unconstitutional change of government, including seizure of power by force;
3. **Recalls** its 314th meeting held in Bamako, Mali, on 20 March 2012, and **reaffirms** its communiqué PSC/MIN/Comm.(CCCXIV) on the situation in Mali, in particular the need to bring to a speedy end the attacks by rebel movements in the north of the country, to restore the authority of the Malian state throughout its territory and to find a lasting solution to all legitimate claims, based on full respect for the national unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Mali;
4. **Deplores** the loss of life and **strongly condemns** the looting and abuses committed by soldiers in Bamako and elsewhere in Mali, and **calls** for an immediate end to these acts. Council **demand**s the release of all political prisoners detained since the coup d'Etat and **will hold** accountable all persons responsible for the breakdown of security and public order in Mali;
5. **Expresses concern** that the Foreign Ministers of Kenya and Zimbabwe, who were in Bamako for a ministerial meeting of the Peace and Security Council dedicated to the situation in the Sahel region, together with other officials, remain trapped in the Malian capital. Council **calls on** the perpetrators of the coup d'Etat in Mali to ensure their safety, facilitate their immediate evacuation and allow all other nationals who wish to leave Mali to do so immediately;
6. **Endorses** the communiqués on the situation in Mali issued by the Chairperson of the Commission on 21 and 22 March 2012, as well as the communiqué of the President of ECOWAS Commission issued on 22 March 2012;
7. **Welcomes** the statements made by Member States condemning the coup d'Etat in Mali and requesting the immediate restoration of constitutional order. Council **further welcomes** the positions expressed by AU bilateral and multilateral partners, including the

United Nations Security Council, through the statement to the press made by its President on 22 March 2012, the European Union (EU), the United States and other AU partners, condemning the coup d'Etat in Mali and calling for the restoration of constitutional order;

8. **Strongly condemns** the breakdown of constitutional order in Mali, following the coup d'Etat of 22 March 2012 and the seizure of power by a section of the Malian army. Council **stresses** that this coup d'Etat, coming just before the presidential election, scheduled for 29 April 2012, constitutes a serious setback for Mali and for the democratic processes taking place on the continent;

9. **Decides**, pursuant to the relevant AU instruments, to suspend, with immediate effect, the participation of Mali in all the activities of the African Union until the effective restoration of constitutional order ;

10. **Calls upon** the military to immediately return to the barracks and raise their grievances through democratic channels and, in this regard, **underlines** the need for immediate restoration of constitutional order. Council **requests** the Chairperson of the Commission, in close collaboration with ECOWAS and the UN, to take all necessary measures to engage with relevant Malian stakeholders to accelerate the attainment of the objective of restoring constitutional order, in accordance with the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. Council **urges** the Malian stakeholders to take all necessary actions to ensure that the presidential election take place as scheduled, on 29 April 2012;

11. **Expresses its appreciation and strong support** for the efforts made by the Chairperson of the Union, President Thomas Yayi Boni of Benin, the Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority, President Alassane Ouattara of Côte d'Ivoire, and the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Desire K. Ouedraogo, to facilitate the restoration of constitutional order and normalcy in Mali. Council **looks forward** to the outcomes of the mission that the ECOWAS, AU and the United Nations have dispatched to Mali. Council **calls upon** concerned parties in Mali to receive the Mission and extend their fullest cooperation;

12. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission, in consultation with ECOWAS and the UN, to take all necessary steps for the Follow-up and Support Group put in place in conformity with paragraph 7 of communiqué PSC/MIN/Comm.(CCCIV), to mobilize and coordinate the support of the international community at large to the efforts of the AU and ECOWAS aimed at ensuring the restoration of constitutional order in Mali;

13. **Decides** to remain seized of the situation.

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